

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8604

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 1967

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, BR

SUBJ: UPPADIT, KRIANGSAK AND THANIN SPEAK OUT ON THAI RELATIONS
WITH BURMA AND VIET-NAM

1. UPON DEPARTURE FOR RANGOON ON JAN 25, FOREIGN MINISTER UPPADIT PACHARIYANKUN AND DEPUTY SUPREME COMMANDER GEN'L KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN SPOKE TO REPORTERS AT AIRPORT ABOUT THEIR PROPOSED VISIT TO BURMA. ACCORDING TO NATION REVIEW, UPPADIT SAID THAT THE RTG IN ADOPTING A "NON-INTERFERENCE" POLICY TOWARDS IT NEIGHBORS, RECOGNIZES THE NE WIN ADMINISTRATION AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVT IN BURMA. "ANY OBSTACLES WHICH AFFECT THIS BASIC PRINCIPLE IN OUR POLICY WILL HAVE TO BE ELIMINATED." ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT BURMESE SUSPICION THAT THAILAND SUPPORTS SOME OF THE BURMESE REBEL GROUPS, UPPADIT REPORTEDLY SAID, "THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING ON THIS MATTER. WE WILL CLEAR THE CLOUD OF SUSPICION DURING THE VISIT." KRIANGSAK SAID OF BURMESE REBEL GROUPS, "WE ARE GOING TO LISTEN TO THE BURMESE GOVT ON THEIR OPINIONS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH HZIS PROBLEM."

2. KRIANGSAK ALSO MENTIONED RECENT RELEASE OF THAI FISHERMEN
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FROM BURMESE JAILS AS GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, BUT UPPADIT NOTED THAT THERE REMAIN MANY MORE FISHERMAN ARRESTED BY BURMESE AUTHORITIES. HE SUGGESTED THAT SOME SORT OF JOINT FISHING OPERATIONS IN THE ANDAMAN SEA MIGHT SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THAI FISHING TRAWLERS TRESPASSING IN BURMESE TERRITORIAL WATERS. UPPADIT ALSO SAID THAT ACTIONS BY ANY SINGLE COUNTRY AGAINST OPIUM TRAFFICKERS IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE ARE OFTEN INEFFECTIVE AND HE WOULD CON-

SULT BURMESE ON IMPROVING COOPERATION IN EFFORTS AGAINST TRAF-
FICKERS.

3. IN JAN 25 ADDRESS TO FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN PRIME MINISTER
THANIN KRAIWICHIAN, AFTER ANNOUNCING GOVT INVESTMENT POLICY,
ANSWERED QUESTIONS WHICH INCLUDED QUERY ABOUT THAI POLICY TOWARDS
VIETNAM. ACCORDING TO BANGKOK POST, THANIN REITERATED, "OUR
GOVT HAS DECLARED THAT WE WANT TO BE FRIENDLY WITH ALL COUNTRIES,
NO MATTER WHAT THEIR POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES ARE. BUT WE DON'T
WANT ANY COUNTRY TO INTERFERE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS."
WHITEHOUSE

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